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CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Governmental Efforts to Suppress Opposition

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Popular Attitude Toward Regime

1. The majority of Poles are still antagonistic toward their present regime and the "bloc parties." Antagonism is particularly strong against the PPR whose members are regarded as having sold out to the USSR or having sought PPR membership merely to gain food, jobs, and personal security. PPR members do not have the ideological sincerity to command the people's confidence.

Government Action Against Community Opposition

2. The regime employs the following methods in fighting against community resistance:
 - (a) The UB institutes political trials, using them to undermine the community's faith in Underground leadership and conspiratorial work by demonstrating the futility of resistance. The trials are publicized by the press and the radio.
 - (b) The PPR, under the guise of combating speculators, is seeking to destroy all private trade and initiative.
 - (c) Persons caught discussing current problems or conditions are arrested, convicted by military courts, and sentenced to prison terms of from five to ten years.

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UP Activity Against the Opposition

6. UP reprisals against the Opposition are being intensified, with arrests during Jul and Aug 47 reaching proportions reminiscent of pre-election days.
7. The UP's chief target is the PSL. In the Tarnobrzeg District, for example, the entire local management of PSL was arrested. The prisoners were charged with fictitious crimes and were threatened with long prison terms and deportation if they did not forsake the PSL.
8. All UP provincial offices have received specific orders to dismiss employees who belong to the PSL. Resultant dismissals have been particularly numerous in the provinces of Bydgoszcz, Bialystok, Warsaw, Lodz, Kielce, Lublin, and Krakow.
9. The UP has concentrated its attention on villages where the majority of the people belong to the PSL. Every day members are summoned to UP headquarters where they are threatened and beaten to obtain "confessions."
10. The UP has not only become more efficient than formerly, but has increased the number of its agents. Since 1 Jul 47, special sums of from five to fifteen million zlotys per month have been allotted to provincial UP branches for the expansion of their confidential services. Five thousand additional agents have been hired - all PPR members. These agents are to establish contacts or spies among such workers as waitresses, secretaries, artists and typists in various phases of industry. Each agent is assigned a minimum quota of 50 contacts, with special emphasis placed on the enlistment of women. In enlisting contacts at any designated institution, a UP agent first secures a roster of the institution's employees. He then determines from a study of the roster which employee is so advantageously placed as to be the best potential contact. The "chosen" contact is subsequently approached with promises of easy money. If these offers are inadequate intimidation is used.
11. [redacted] information [redacted] refutes reports that the UP is using more humane methods than formerly in conducting its investigations. [redacted] the UP, in trying to throttle all opposition, continues to employ such tortures as:
 - (a) Pouring water down prisoners' noses.
 - (b) Leaving suspects in water up to their waists for periods of several days.
 - (c) Using red-hot irons.
 - (d) Keeping suspects' eyes open for days and nights at a time.
12. The UP resorts to these "direct methods" in stifling determined resistance but employs a more subtle method in dealing with those who have already "lost faith in better days." These weaker elements are courted with promises of better jobs and more money. Promises of this sort can be convincing because it is well-known that only PPR members are being employed in the Government and the UP. The UP will not even hire members of the SL.

The Judiciary

13. Poland's judiciary system has no independence whatever. It is controlled completely by the Government.

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All courts were recently ordered to increase the severity of their sentences. Capital punishment was made mandatory in all convictions of espionage and betrayal of secrets, including betrayal of PPR secrets.

14. During 1946 the Warsaw courts alone tried approximately 20 thousand criminal cases. During the same period they handled only 3,688 civil cases of which 2,464 were divorces.
15. Polish prisons are unprecedentedly crowded. In Warsaw's Mokotow prison, for example, a cell built to accommodate 12 prisoners now holds 42. A female prison in Porden, intended for three thousand inmates, is housing seven thousand.

Deportation as a Political Weapon

16. Population transfers can no longer be classified as "economic transfers" in connection with the Recovered Territories. They have become terroristic political weapons with which the PPR can effect deportation of PSL members, non-partisans, and political suspects.
17. The cruel technique used in "transfers" is illustrated by the following cases:
 - (a) Deportees from Jaroslaw, Przemysl, and Lubaczow districts were held in a concentration camp at Przeworsk without shelter of any sort. They frequently had to live more than three weeks in the most "sordid hygienic and food conditions."
 - (b) Since Apr 47, entire populations of villages in Rzeszow Province have been transported to Szczecin Province by cattle train. Transfers were effected as a result of secret orders to the UB, MO, and Army. Villages were first surrounded by the KMB (provincial branch of the UB), and military units. Transferees were then notified to report to a collecting point within two hours, bringing with them any personal property they could either carry or load on a horse cart provided they possessed one. Convoys were strictly guarded and proceeded under the worst possible conditions. Transferees were divided by the UB into three categories: (1) those suspected of Underground activity, (2) those suspected of having aided partisans, and (3) partisan sympathizers.
18. In Lublin Province the inhabitants of Wlodawa, Dubienka, Hrubieszow, Bels, Uchnow, and Rawa Ruska have already been transferred, while those of Chelm are in the process of being moved. Railroad workers were the first to be taken from Chelm.
19. The Lublin transfers were effected under the guise of repatriating the West. Local Poles, however, believe that Soviet authorities intend to deport all Poles as far as the San River.

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